

HOUSE RESOLUTION 169

By Windle

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Lyda Speck on the celebration of her 100th birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Lyda Speck will celebrate her 100th birthday on March 27, 2014, a milestone that will be commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of Floyd Morgan Speck and Narcis Allred, she was born and raised near Crawford, Tennessee, and is a longtime resident of Livingston, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Speck attended Milligan College and taught at Livingston Academy for three years; due to the Great Depression she worked for vouchers rather than money; and

WHEREAS, in 1939, Lyda Speck took the exam to be a letter carrier in Overton County; she was the only woman to take the test and after receiving the highest score, she became the first female letter carrier in the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, during World War II, Lyda Speck took a leave of absence from her job to join the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps which soon became the Women's Army Corps; and

WHEREAS, during her training, Lyda Speck bravely volunteered for a special secret assignment; she was stationed at Los Alamos, New Mexico, the site of the Manhattan Project, where her work on the atomic bomb in the physics department was recognized by WAC commanding officer, John H. Williams and famed theoretical physicist and project director, Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Speck was discharged in 1946 and returned to her mail carrier job which she held for thirty-three years; a deeply compassionate woman, she would often leave food, clothes, and shoes in the mail boxes of needy families; and

WHEREAS, a past member of the Livingston Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, Lyda Speck earned the admiration and respect of her peers and fellow members alike for her worthy service; and

WHEREAS, a deeply religious woman, Ms. Speck is an eighty-five year member of the First Baptist Church where she served as the church clerk and secretary for ten years, taught adult Sunday school classes for over twenty years, served on many church committees, and is a charter member of the church's Missionary Society; and

WHEREAS, as she approaches her eleventh decade, Lyda Speck is still an active and productive member of society; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and congratulate Lyda Speck on the celebration of her 100th birthday and extend our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.